It is here my pleasant duty to express, both on behalf of the Government and on my own behalf, grateful acknowledgment of the zealous manner in which the duties entrusted by the Council were discharged by the Members of the Standing Finance Committee, of the valuable suggestions offered by them in the course of the sitting and the candid criticisms they made, when they found such criticism necessary. Some of the suggestions have already been carried out in the budget and others are receiving close consideration at the hands of the departments concerned which could further be discussed and decided on the floor of this House.

CONCLUSION.

18. Sir, I do not know how much I have taxed the patience of the House by this long narration of facts and figures. All that I can say is, that I have attempted to present the budget in as lucid a manner as possible and that my services are at the disposal of any Member who may require any further elucidation or more detailed information.

19. With the presentation of the Budget, my duty for the day, is done. Nevertheless, I feel impelled, Sir, with your leave and with the indulgence of this House, to make a few personal observations. From the comparatively featureless 'prosperity' budgets of the last few years, the pendulum has swung rather violently to the other extreme and you are confronted with a budget with at least three striking features which cannot fail to rivet the attention of the House—I mean, Salary cuts, Income-tax and Harbour-*cum*-Railway Loan. Any one of these is sufficient by itself to alienate good will and sympathy; the cumulative effect of all the three is, therefore, likely to produce a revulsion of feeling and sure to cause embarrassment to any one whose name happens to be associated with them. Salary cuts might create sullen discontent, income-tax may give rise to angry protests and loan proposals may cause anxious misgivings. But a moment's reflection, I feel sure, will dissolve all doubts, dispel all fears and disarm all opposition. To such of my fellow servicemen as may feel inclined, at the first impulse, to make a grievance of salary cuts I would make an appeal and tell them that

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if only they would recall Government's generous treatment of them in times of prosperity, they would feel less inclined to exaggerate the small sacrifice they are now called upon to make and that their secret dissatisfaction would be transmuted into cheery response. To those to whom income-tax is unwelcome, my answer is that the very foundation of their incomes on which the tax is proposed to be levied is the continuance of a stable Government and it is therefore incumbent on them to help to keep such Government in possession of necessary funds to enable them to carry on in times of stress and strain. To the third category of persons who may feel inclined to doubt the wisdom of the proposed loan, I would humbly convey the assurance that the loan proposed to be raised will not only pay itself back but would fructify a hundred-fold in the years to come. A completed Harbour and a broadened Railway are our priceless assets and will constitute a pair of powerful lungs to our body-politic. Nobody with a wider outlook and an extended vision can, therefore, reasonably grudge the legitimate expansion of these lungs which would insure a fresh and adequate supply of financial blood to generations yet unborn. It may be the part of excessive caution to look askance at loans even if they are productive of good; but wise statesmanship would demand that the future be forestalled and provided for. Quite apart from the merits of the case, there is yet another reason in support of the loan proposal. Whether for good or for evil, the fortunes of our State have become linked up with those of the world at large and unless we choose to isolate ourselves from the rest of the world and to get left behind in the march of progress, we have to keep step with developments all around us.

With this short resume, I humbly commend the budget to the consideration of the House and ask leave to resume my seat.

The House rose for the day 4 P. M.

C. J. MATHEW,
Secretary to the Council.

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